

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the specification as filed, except the claims, the sequence listing, and the fifteen sheets of deposit receipts for Plasmids MYC 2501, MYC 2502, and MYC 2503, with the attached Substitute Specification.

Please amend the substitute specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph 001 with the following amended paragraph:

--[001] This application is a continuation application of PCT International Application No. PCT/EP02/09679, filed August 14, 2002, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/311,824, filed August 14, 2001, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/313,523, filed August 21, 2001, the disclosures of each of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.--

Please replace paragraphs 029 and 030 with the following amended paragraphs:

--[029] This invention also provides a polynucleotide consisting of contiguous nucleotides of the Rv3908 locus of a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strain including codon 48 of said locus, or a polynucleotide fully complementary thereto. In one embodiment, codon 48 is GGG. In another embodiment, the polynucleotide contains the complement of SEQ ID NO: [[1]] 3, SEQ ID NO: [[2]] 4, or both SEQ ID NOs: ~~1 and 2~~ 3 and 4.

[030] Further, this invention provides a polynucleotide consisting of contiguous nucleotides of the *mutT2* locus of a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strain including codon 58 of said locus, or a polynucleotide fully complementary thereto. In one embodiment, codon 48 is CGA. In another embodiment, the polynucleotide contains the complement of SEQ ID NO: [[3]] 1, SEQ ID NO: [[4]] 2, or both SEQ ID NOs: ~~3 and 4~~ 1 and 2.--